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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
9 June-3 July 2008
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

1. At its 10th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 21)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and settlement of the Middle East question was expressed.

4. Clarifications were sought concerning the overall orientation, in particular paragraphs 21.3 and 21.5, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 as compared to the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The view was expressed that the previous formulation of the text of the biennial programme plan provided a fuller and clearer explanation of the orientation of the programme.

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5. It was observed that the reference to "increased access to educational facilities" contained in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 1, Education, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009 had been changed to "increased coverage" in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011. The view was expressed that the previous formulation provided a fuller and clearer explanation.

6. Under subprogramme 2, Health, the view was expressed that some aspects of the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, notably three expected accomplishments, had not been included in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011. Further, under the strategy, clarification was sought with regard to the deletion in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 of the phrase "improving the efficiency of the distribution of food aid" contained in the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The view was expressed that the previous formulation provided a fuller and clearer explanation.

7. The view was expressed that the list of legislative mandates applicable to the programme required updating to include resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-second session.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the efforts of UNRWA to rationalize its action, establish its priorities and strengthen its coordination with the other international and local humanitarian actors.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.5

In the second line, after the word "distress" replace the words "as a result of international and internal conflict" with the words "within its areas of operations as a result of conflicts, including military operations,"

Paragraph 21.6

In the second sentence, before the word "responses", insert the words "programming, operation and advocacy"

Subprogramme 1
Education

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), after the word "coverage" insert the words "and access to educational facilities"

Subprogramme 2
Health

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add the following new accomplishment:

"(d) Streamlined health policies and service standards to conform with those of the host authorities"

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator:

"(d) Strengthened and improved quality of partnership agreements and joint programmes with the host authorities"

Strategy

In paragraph 21.9 (d), replace the words "and integrating a pro-poor, gender-responsive and human rights-based approach" with the words "and integrating a pro-poor, gender-responsive approach and respect for human rights"

In paragraph 21.9 (e), before the word "health" insert the words "long-term"; after the words "health consequences", insert the words ", such as psychological trauma," and replace the word "crises" with "crisis"

Subprogramme 3
Relief and social services

Strategy

Replace paragraph 21.10 (f), with the following: "(f) Promoting the institutional capacity of community-based organizations through training and technical assistance to enhance refugee participation in the formulation and implementation of social services for vulnerable groups in their communities."

In paragraph 21.10, add a new subparagraph: "(i) Improving the efficiency of the distribution of food aid."

Subprogramme 4
Microfinance and microenterprise

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "To improve" with the words "To continue striving towards an enhanced coordinating role vis-à-vis alternative service providers, with the aim of improving"

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add the following new accomplishment (a) to read:

"(a) Continued interaction with alternative service providers"

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator (a):

"(a) Number of interactions with alternative service providers"

Renumber the subsequent accomplishments and indicators accordingly.

Legislative mandates

Replace the following General Assembly resolutions

"61/112 Assistance to Palestine refugees

61/113 Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

61/114 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East"

with

"62/102 Assistance to Palestine refugees

62/103 Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

62/104 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East"